

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/700,490

Examiner

Debra Wolfe

Applicant(s)

STONE ET AL.

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed January 9, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 12 and 19-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Drawings

Figure 5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "A conveyor comprising...an end effector including first and second carrier elements with said first carrier element fixed to said robot arm and said second carrier element pivotally connected/attached to said first carrier and said first and said second carrier elements adapted to receive a work piece therebetween" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in independent claims 1 and 12.

Further searching by the examiner yielded additional prior art as follows:

2. Bachmann (U.S. Patent # 3,824,833) discloses a forging press having a conveyor (See FIG 1) for conveying a forged product to and from dies and the working space (4). The conveyor (See FIG 1) comprises of a pivot assembly (pivot spindle 7), a movable robot arm (handling



lever 9) with a crank arm (See FIG 1 above), and end effector (grippers 10) with two movable jaws (12, 13) and is actuated by a piston-cylinder system (23, See col. 5, line 56).

Toeniskoetter (U.S. Patent # 6,125,683) discloses a closure panel hemming system having a conveyor (See FIG 4). The conveyor (See FIG 4) comprises of a pivot assembly (See FIG 4), a movable robot arm (18) with a crank arm (robot 16), an end effector (20) and first and second carrier elements (pivoting clamping fingers 29).

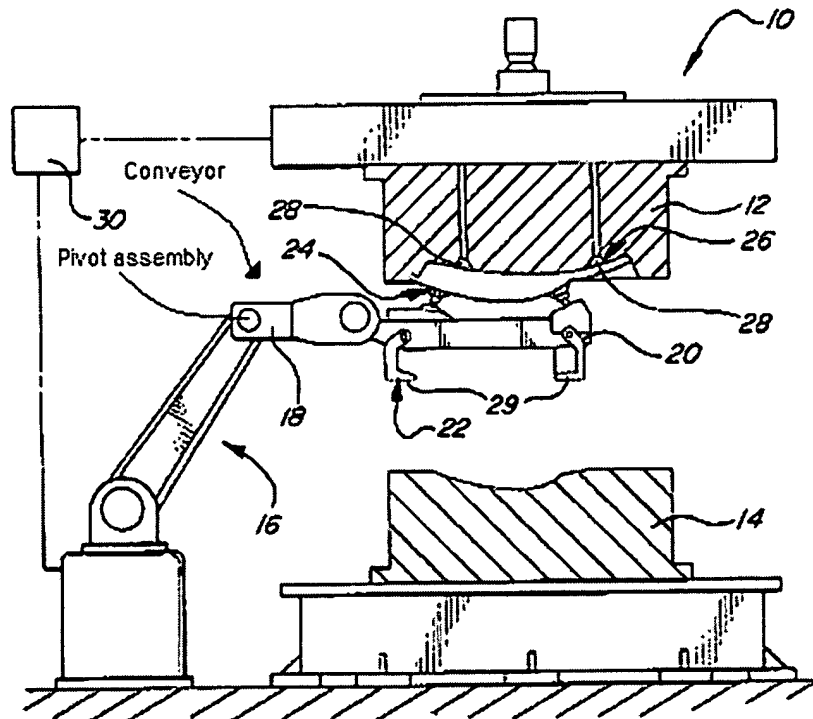


FIG: 4

3. However the above cited prior art fails to disclose the first and second carrier elements whereby the first carrier element is fixed to the robot arm and the second carrier element is pivotally attached to the first carrier element and said first and said second carrier elements are



adapted to receive a work piece therebetween. Therefore, it is concluded by the examiner that claims 1-6 and 12, 19-22 of the present invention are allowable subject matter over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 6am - 3:30pm with alternating Fridays 6am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra Wolfe
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derris H. Banks", is positioned above the printed name.

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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